



The Hilltop Institute

analysis to advance the health of vulnerable populations

Model States' Supports Waivers

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DDA Stakeholder Meeting

Four “Leader” States

- **Connecticut:** Employment and Day Supports (EDS) Waiver and Individual and Family Support (IFS) Waiver
- **Louisiana:** Supports Waiver
- **Massachusetts:** Adult Supports (AS) Waiver, Community Living (CL) Waiver
- **Oregon:** ICF/MR Support Services Waiver
- Recommendations from Robin Cooper, NASDDDS

Goals of Waivers Reviewed

- Create an additional system of supports for individuals who live with family or in their own homes to complement existing natural support systems
- Seek to create options and provide meaningful opportunities that enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities through vocational and community inclusion
- Maximize choice, control, and efficient use of state and federal resources to provide a mechanism to serve an increased number of individuals through individualized and non-licensed service options

Number of Waiver Slots

- Connecticut
 - Employment and Day Supports: 600
 - Individual and Family Support: 4,100
- Louisiana: 2,500
- Massachusetts
 - Adult Supports: 2,500
 - Community Living: 3,000
- Oregon: 9,152

Services

- There is wide variation in the number of different services offered in each supports waiver
 - Connecticut
 - Employment and Day Supports: 11
 - Individual and Family Supports: 24
 - Louisiana: 7
 - Massachusetts
 - Adult Supports: 8
 - Community Living: 23
 - Oregon: 17

Services continued

- Most common services are respite and supported employment; these two services are in all six waivers
- Transportation services are offered in five waivers
- Individual and/or group day support, and individual goods and services/environmental modifications are offered in four waivers

Individual Budgets

- Five of the waivers have individual budget caps
 - Connecticut EDS: \$28,000
 - Connecticut IFS: \$58,000
 - Massachusetts AS: \$28,000
 - Massachusetts CL: \$65,000
 - Oregon: \$21,652
- Louisiana does not use an individual budget cap; instead, there is a cap on each waiver service
- Each waiver has an exception process that allows an individual to exceed the annual limit on a non-recurring basis

Enrollment Requirements

- All states require waiver participants to meet an ICF/ID level of care
- Enrollment Prioritization
 - Connecticut: Consideration for those with emergent needs, people living with caregivers over the age of 65; reserved capacity for high school graduates; those aging out of residential services; and children in the Voluntary Services Program
 - Louisiana: First-come, first-served basis without additional prioritization or reserved capacity
 - Massachusetts: Transitioning from an institution to the community, need for emergent services, and priority 1 status who have needs that if not met are likely to cause harm to themselves or others
 - Oregon: First-come, first-served basis

Self-Direction

- Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Oregon all offer some form of self-direction
 - Each gives waiver participants the option of employer authority, budget authority, or both
 - For those participants choosing self-direction, fiscal intermediary services are required, but the cost of these services is not counted within the individual budget

Reimbursement of Providers

- Each state sets a specific cost-based rate for each individual service generally tied to the amount of time each service is provided
- Services are generally billed separately for each service as opposed to bundled rates

Common Services

Supported Employment

- Provides supports for persons for whom competitive employment is unlikely without ongoing support to perform in a work setting
- Transportation to supported employment is included in the rate for Connecticut and Massachusetts
- Participants cannot receive supported employment on days that they receive day services

Supported Employment Coverage

- Connecticut covers up to 8 hours a day, or 40 hours per week.
- Louisiana has 4 categories within supported employment:
 - Job assessment, discovery, and development for individual and group employment
 - Assessment covers 120 days for individual employment and 20 days for group employment
 - Job support, retention, and follow-along for individual and group employment
 - Support covers 240 days for both settings.
 - Participants can exceed 240 days if their work schedule allows.
- Massachusetts covers up to 160 hours a month.
- Oregon covers supported employment as needed.

Respite

- Services furnished on a short-term basis because of the absence or need for relief of those persons normally providing the care to individuals unable to care for themselves
- Respite is covered in the waiver participant's home, the home of the respite provider, or a licensed respite facility in each of the states

Respite Coverage

- Connecticut: Up to 14 days per year in EDS; up to 30 days consecutively in IFS
- Louisiana: Up to 107 hours per year
- Massachusetts: Up to 30 days per year; facility-based respite cannot be self-directed
- Oregon: No specific coverage maximum, but it is not available for caregivers to attend school or work

Individual or Group Day Services

- Services and supports to facilitate independence and promote community integration by supporting the individual to gain or maintain skills to live as independently as possible
- Each state offers the service to both individuals and groups, although participants in Louisiana have to show a specific need to get one-on-one support

Individual or Group Day Services Coverage

- Connecticut: Up to 8 hours a day
- Louisiana: Up to 240 days per year with prior authorization and up to 254 days with justification
- Massachusetts: 27 hours per month in the AS Waiver
- Oregon: As needed per the care plan

Goods and Equipment/ Environmental Modifications

- Individual goods and equipment must either reduce the reliance of the individual on other paid supports, be directly related to the individual's health and/or safety, be habilitative in nature, enhance integration in the community, or provide resources to expand self-advocacy and have no other funds to pay for the goods
- Environmental modifications are physical adaptations to the private residence of participant or the participant's family, required by the individual's plan of care, which are necessary to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the individual, or which enable the individual to function with greater independence in the home and, without which, the individual would require institutionalization

Goods and Equipment/ Environmental Modifications

continued

- Both Connecticut waivers and Massachusetts' CL Waiver offer individual goods and equipment
- Environmental modifications are available for participants in Connecticut's IFS Waiver, Massachusetts' CL Waiver, and Oregon's waiver

Transportation

- Non-medical transportation to community services, resources, and activities as specified in a plan of care
- Transportation to day services and supported employment may be included in the rates for those services
- The service may include purchase of public transportation

Transportation Coverage

- Each state that offers the service will seek to utilize family, friends, neighbors, or community agencies who can provide the service without charge first
- Reimbursement includes mileage when the participant is with the provider
 - It does not include the provider's travel time

Tiered Waiver States

- Connecticut and Massachusetts design a set of services for minimal needs participants (11 in CT and 8 in MA) and then design a broader set for persons with moderate needs (24 different services in CT and 23 in MA)
- People with minimal needs generally receive services for activities during the day, such as supported employment or day habilitation, respite, and transportation
- Persons with moderate needs get additional services—such as family supports, accessibility modifications, behavioral supports, and others—depending on plans of care

About The Hilltop Institute

The Hilltop Institute at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) is a nationally recognized research center dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of vulnerable populations. Hilltop conducts research, analysis, and evaluations on behalf of government agencies, foundations, and nonprofit organizations at the national, state, and local levels.

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